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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT
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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
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SUBJECT: "Chair Repair"--Information from Forest Service experts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

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A warm, dry house is nice to come home to...but it's often hard on the furniture. The dry heat shrinks the wood and causes the glue to dry out. And first thing you know...the dining room chairs are coming to pieces.

Well...here are some tips on putting 'em back together again. These suggestions come from forest experts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Use a regular cabinet glue for your work. That's the kind that comes in flakes or cakes. You can usually get it at a hardware store..and if you apply it correctly it will hold the wood together very satisfactorily.

Just a few pointers on using this glue. Since it comes in flakes or cakes... you'll need to break it up in small pieces and let it soak overnight before it's ready to be heated. Put just enough water to cover when setting the glue to soak.

If you don't have a regular glue pot....you can heat the glue in the inner vessel of a double boiler. The glue is ready to use when it becomes liquid. You'll get best results if you use glue that's comparatively thin....and if you apply it while it's hot.

But before you apply the hot fresh glue...make sure that all old glue is removed. Otherwise your work will be in vain. Removing the old glue is one of the most important steps in furniture repair. You can chip off the larger pieces of old glue with a knife. And you can dissolve the glue that remains by working warm vinegar into it.

When the parts to be glued are clean...and thoroughly dry...put them together and test for a proper fit. Best guide for this is to make sure that all surfaces touch each other.

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Now...apply the hot glue. It flows easily and if the old glue is completely removed and the pores of the wood are open....the fresh, hot glue will penetrate the pores. When you're putting in a chair rung or dowel-pin...apply the glue both to the end of the rung or pin and to the hole.

Final step in the repair job is to apply pressure that will make the glue stick. For a chair...a tourniquet of rope or stout cord will make satisfactory pressure. You'll want to protect the wood and finish from the rope. So put thick pads of paper under the ropes where they touch the furniture.

Leave the tourniquet on until the glue is dry. That usually takes about 24 hours.

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